THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM

australia paraguay

SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM, JUNE 9, 2000

THE 'GABBA, BRISBANE, JUNE 12, 2000

COLONIAL STADIUM, MELBOURNE, JUNE 15, 2000

International Entertainment Corporation
LG
LG SOCCEROOS
7sport
Soccer Australia

THE TASTE OF NUMBER ONE

1999
AUSTRALIAN LIQUOR INDUSTRY AWARDS
Hosted by
national LIQUOR NEWS

- ✔ New Product of the Year
- ✔ New Beer of the Year
- ✔ Light Beer of the Year

*WELCOME: bienvenido

australia vs paraguay

SYDNEY, FRIDAY JUNE 9, 2000

BRISBANE, MONDAY JUNE 12, 2000

MELBOURNE, THURSDAY JUNE 15, 2000

WELCOME FROM BASIL SCARSELLA CHAIRMAN OF SOCCER AUSTRALIA

I would like to extend a very warm welcome from Australia to the Paraguayan delegation for the three match series between our two countries this month.

Our South American opponents will undoubtedly provide the LG Socceroos with excellent opposition, as we gear up for a hectic twelve months with a definite goal in mind – qualification for the 2002 World Cup.

Immediately ahead is the Oceania Nations Cup, to be staged in Tahiti at the end of this month and these three matches will provide valuable preparation for Frank Farina and the team as they gear up to take on our Pacific neighbours for a berth at next year's Confederations Cup.

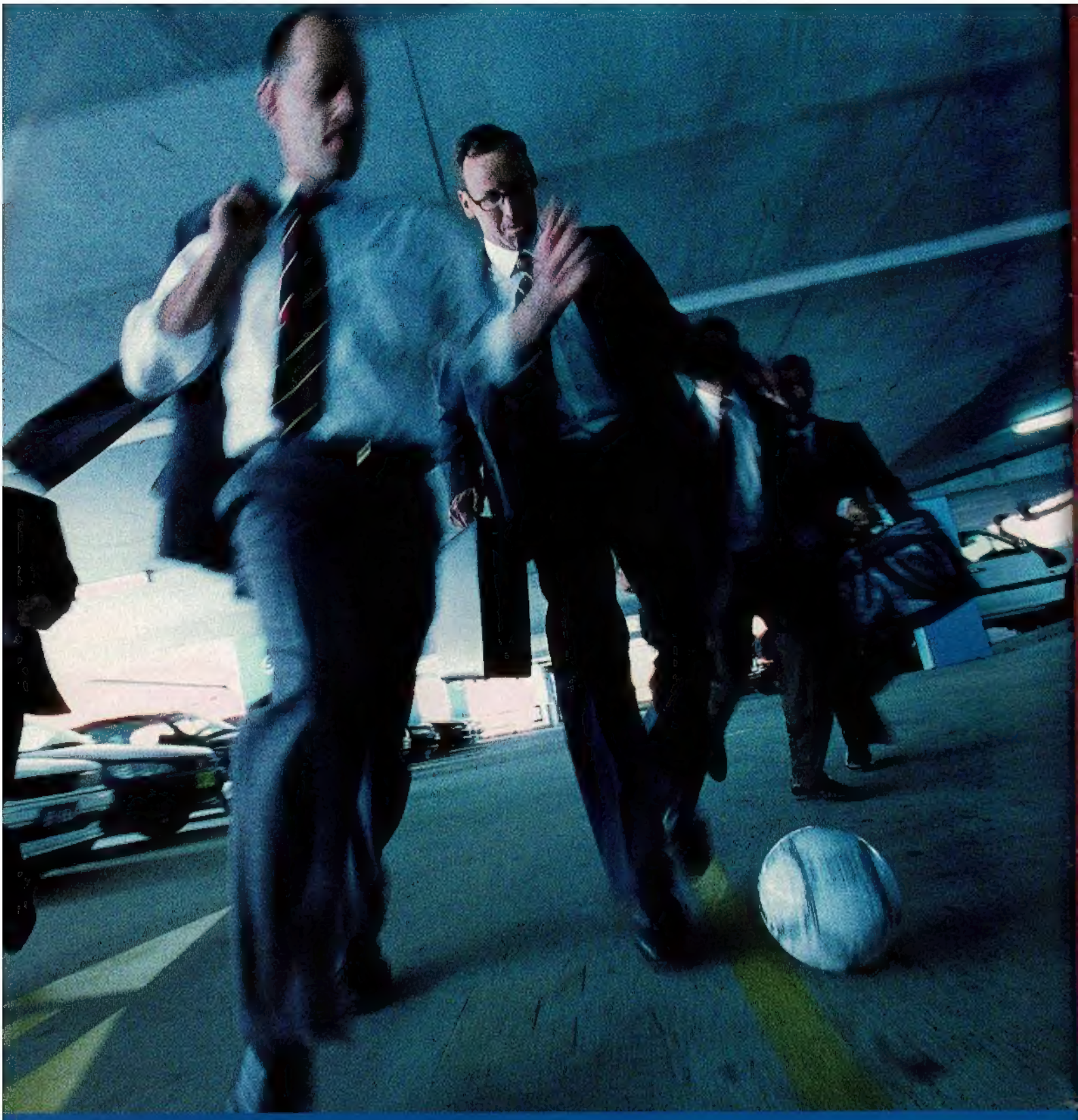
Our progress in the world game would not be possible without much work at many levels and I also take this opportunity to thank our many soccer partners for their continued support of the game.

In particular, our major partner, LG Electronics, continues to play a dominant role in the on-going development of our national teams, while this three-match series is the first venture between Soccer Australia and our newest partner, International Entertainment Corporation, who I also welcome aboard.

Finally, thank you for your continued support of Australian soccer; I trust that this series will be everything you expect – and more.

BASIL SCARSELLA

>>PG/3



Travel light. Move fast. Enjoy the game. Go your own way.™

AnsettAustralia

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

www.ansett.com.au

*WELCOME: bienvenido

australia vs paraguay

SYDNEY, FRIDAY JUNE 9, 2000

BRISBANE, MONDAY JUNE 12, 2000

MELBOURNE, THURSDAY JUNE 15, 2000

WELCOME FROM DOMINIC GALATI MANAGING DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT CORPORATION

International Entertainment Corporation is excited with our involvement in Australian soccer and look forward to working closely with Soccer Australia as their commercial partner in developing the code over the many years to come.

The Australia v Paraguay series is the first of our official involvement in this program, and we are honoured to assist Frank Farina and his players over the next 18 months as they prepare for the ultimate challenge ahead of them: to qualify for the World Cup in 2002.

The path has been a tough one for all Australian soccer supporters – and it will not be any easier in the future. With so many of our elite players in demand and playing at the highest levels overseas, we are all very aware of the difficulties in co-ordinating and developing a team capable of qualification.

However, we at IEC welcome the challenge of working with Soccer Australia, Frank Farina, and the players, to overcome these logistics and provide the Australian public an international sporting team of which they will be justifiably proud.

Paraguay come with a reputation and credentials respected by any serious football nation. Ranked 17th in the world by FIFA, they are the third-highest ranked South American nation with only Brazil (1st) and Argentina (7th) above them. Paraguay not only set a challenge to Frank and his players on the park but also provide the Australian sporting public the opportunity of seeing a high-calibre international soccer team on our own soil.

Regards

DOMINIC GALATI

International Entertainment CORPORATION

>>PG/5

Australia's Olympic Network

THE KEEPER OF THE FLAME

GAMES OF THE XXVII OLYMPIAD SYDNEY 2000 LIVE ON THE SEVEN NETWORK

*WELCOME: bienvenido

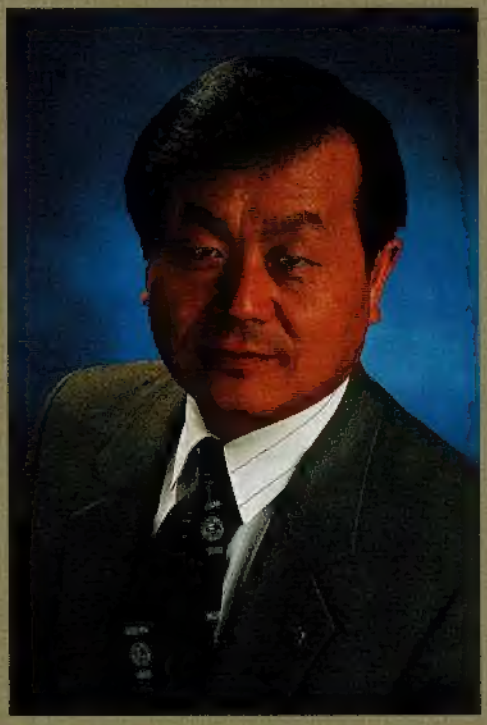
australia
vs paraguay

SYDNEY, FRIDAY JUNE 9, 2000

BRISBANE, MONDAY JUNE 12, 2000

MELBOURNE, THURSDAY JUNE 15, 2000

WELCOME FROM CHRISTOPHER KIM MANAGING DIRECTOR OF LG ELECTRONICS AUSTRALIA



Dear Soccer Fans,

On behalf of LG Electronics, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to this exciting series between two champion teams, the LG Socceroos and Paraguay.

We are greatly honoured to be associated with the LG Socceroos and, indeed, Australian soccer in general.

Like soccer, LG is growing in Australia. As a global manufacturer of electronic products, LG is leading the way in product innovations that will set the standard in the digital era of the new millennium. Our new corporate identity, Digital LG, focuses on our ability to produce digitally advanced products, which are easy to use, making life good for you and your family.

LG's vision reflects the vision for soccer in Australia – to be the best. With these parallel goals, LG and Soccer Australia will work together to ensure both these visions become reality.

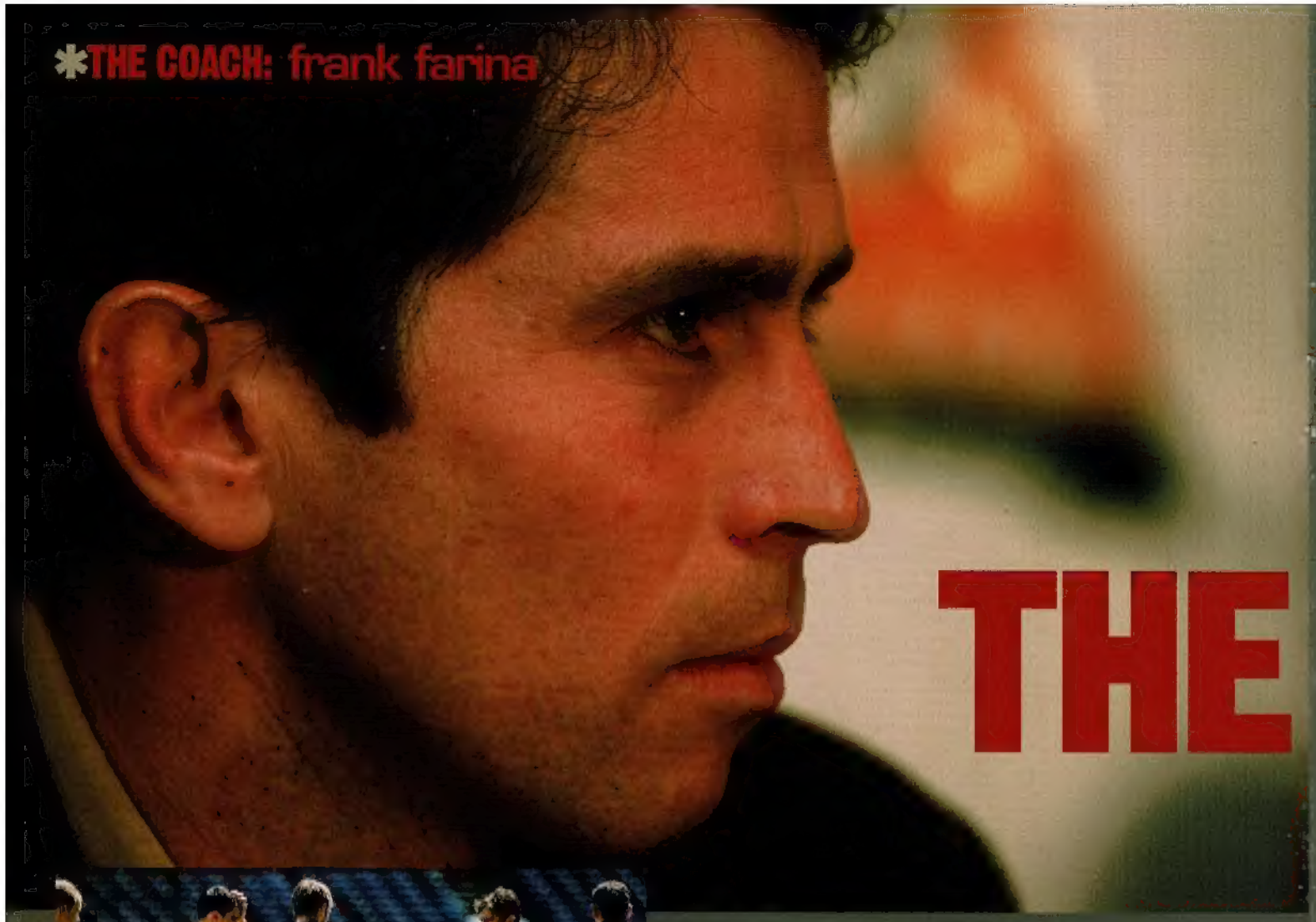
Accordingly, we have made a commitment to supporting the growth of soccer in Australia, through a Grass Roots programme, which reaches more than half a million young soccer players nationally. We believe that the future of soccer in Australia is dependent upon our youth, and with LG's backing, we can ensure the kids of today become tomorrow's LG Socceroos.

GO the LG Socceroos! LG

CHRISTOPHER KIM

>>PG/7

*THE COACH: frank farina



THE

Frank Farina has experienced a sharp learning curve as national coach. It is a challenge he enjoys.

>> Where do these games against Paraguay fit into the grand scheme of things?

>>They're very important. They're the lead up to the Oceania Nations Cup which are the qualifiers for the Confederations Cup. It's a chance to play South American opponents. If we're to proceed all the way through and qualify for the World Cup in 2002 then Paraguay are possibly one of the teams we'll have to play along the way. When opportunities like this come up we can't afford to turn it down.

What sort of opponent do you envisage Paraguay will be?

>>They'll be very tough. If you look at their recent record they did very well at the last World Cup. They're currently ranked 17th in the world and they're doing very well at the moment in the CONMEBOL World Cup qualifiers. They will be a very tough side.

What style can we expect Paraguay to play?

>>South American sides don't tend to differ much. These days you find that they all play with flair and ability but they can also be tough when that sort of approach is required. Paraguay will be quite similar to the style played by Chile who we met earlier in the year.

You've experienced trips to South America as both a player and a coach. How different is it playing matches over there compared with home games in Australia?

>>It's definitely different. It's great to travel to places like Chile, Argentina, and Brazil but playing football there can be a different matter entirely for a visiting team. The local fans can create a very hostile environment. The place is lovely to visit but once you get into the stadium and out on to the pitch the crowd and the opposition is very aggressive. The crowd does its job very well! Believe me!

What are your memories of the 1993 World Cup play-off in Buenos Aires against Argentina?

>>That was hostility at its best. The crowd gave very one-eyed and parochial support of its team. It was what we expected but it was still aggressive! It was a situation where the people were desperate for their team to get to the World Cup and they turned up and supported them to make sure they did. It was a crazy night.

Which games over the past eight months have you learnt the most from as a coach?

>>Initially, the first-up game against Brazil, as well as the match against the Czech Republic. But to be totally fair every game had its lesson. We benefit from games regardless of whether we learn something positive or negative about our team.

"[PARAGUAY] DID VERY WELL AT THE LAST WORLD CUP. THEY'RE CURRENTLY RANKED 17TH IN THE WORLD AND THEY'RE DOING VERY WELL AT THE MOMENT IN THE CONMEBOL WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS. THEY WILL BE A VERY TOUGH SIDE."

>>PG/8

National coach FRANK FARINA remains focussed on his ultimate goal. This series against Paraguay is an important stepping stone on the road to 2002.

Farina weaves his magic across the SFS against Canada in 1993. He made the scoresheet with an overhead bicycle kick!

CRUSADE CONTINUES

You've chosen a few players in this squad who some of us might have thought we'd seen the last of. What do these players still have to offer?

>>I always say horses for courses. We have a very difficult tournament coming up in Tahiti for the Oceania Nations Cup and experience is invaluable. These players not only have that experience but have also played extremely well in the last six months of the local competition. Guys like Aurelio Vidmar and Carl Veart are still desperate to play for Australia and I've always said that if a player is good enough and doing well enough then his age does not come into it. It comes down to needing certain personnel to get a job done.

Which young local players have impressed you this past season?

>>Brett Emerton started a little slow but he's been very impressive during the middle and later stages of the season. Steve Laybutt has broken into the national team, Simon Colosimo was very unfortunate to get injured against Manchester United, but he has every chance of being involved since recovering well. Kasey Wehrman at Perth Glory has a problem with his ankle which made him unavailable for these games but he's making good progress too.

We failed to win the Oceania Nations Cup in 1998 and so missed out on the Confederations Cup. Even though you weren't involved, what will you do differently to ensure that particular performance was a one-off?

>>[Laughs] Qualify! I don't know if New Zealand were taken too lightly in the final. To be fair to everyone involved at that time, the tournament came at a bad time of the year for us. Players were just starting pre-season and had a lot of time off before hand. No one person can be blamed for that failure and neither can one particular issue. On the day of the final we had a lot of players who were a little flat and weren't in the best form that they could have been.

FIFA are suggesting that the next Confederations Cup will be the last. Is that tournament important for Australia?

>>Yes. Both financially and to have the opportunity to play quality opposition when we get there.

>>FACT FILE >>Frank Farina

>**Born:** September 5, 1964 in Darwin

>**Previous Clubs:** Canberra Arrows, Sydney City, Marconi-Fairfield, Brugge (Belgium), Bari (Italy), Strasbourg (France), Lille (France), Brisbane Strikers.

>**Coaching Career:** Brisbane Strikers (Champions 1997), Marconi Fairfield.

>**Socceroo Appearances:** 37

>**Socceroo Goals:** 10

>**Major tournaments:** 1983 World Youth Cup, 1988 Olympic Games

>**Major Honours:** Championships with Sydney City, Marconi, Brugge, Brisbane Strikers; Player's Player of the Year 1987, 1988; Leading Goalscorer 1987, 1988, 1989/90; Best Foreign Player in Belgium 1989/90; Oceania Player of the Year 1988.

In 1993, Australia beat Canada on penalties to set up an epic World Cup qualifying encounter with Argentina.

>>PG/9

Kevin Muscat (left) and Mark Viduka have shone under Frank Farina's strong yet fair leadership.

>>Australia under Farina
the record in full

>>November 14, 1999, Sydney
AUSTRALIA 0 BRAZIL 2
>>November 17, 1999
AUSTRALIA 2 (Agostino 11, 60)
BRAZIL 2
>>February 9, 2000, Valparaiso, Chile
CHILE 2 AUSTRALIA 1 (Corica 15)
>>February 12, 2000, Valparaiso, Chile
AUSTRALIA 0 SLOVAKIA 0
>>February 15, 2000, Valparaiso, Chile
AUSTRALIA 1 (Agostino 1)
BULGARIA 1
>>February 23, 2000, Valparaiso, Chile
HUNGARY 0 AUSTRALIA 3
(Laybutt 12, Skoko 72, Moore 89)
>>March 29, 2000, Teplice, Czech Republic
CZECH REPUBLIC 3
AUSTRALIA 1 (Foster 88)

Farina lifted the National Soccer League championship in his first year as player-coach of Brisbane Strikers.

A lot of fans are disappointed at how difficult it is to get our best possible team regularly out on the park. What can you say to them?

>>Ideally, we'd always love to have the best team available but it's part and parcel of football these days that things occur to make that not possible. It's just not going to be possible for every game. When we have a big squad of 30 or so to choose from it has to be realised that they are all quality players. I dare anyone to say that our squad is not a quality group of players. We're always going to have problems with injuries and these are the things we must accept. In an ideal world, sure, we'll have everyone available but that is just not going to happen.

Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka recently picked up prestigious personal awards in Britain this year. How does that affect the national team?

>>It's a reflection of the quality players we're producing in this country. With Craig Moore finishing highly in the voting in Scotland as well, it shows that our set up is going well. European clubs are now picking up more players than they already have in the past. It's also great that Australians will be involved in the Champions League and UEFA Cup next season. Our boys are playing regularly, and playing very well, for good teams. That situation is a big positive for me and Graham Arnold.

What does Graham Arnold bring to the national team as your assistant?

>>Although he's a young coach, like me, he has a lot of experience as a player. He gets along very well with the players which is important. He also has an opinion that isn't just a mirror of what I think. We get along well, which is also important but I needed someone to assist me who wasn't just going to be a 'yes' person. [Laughing] I don't always listen to what he has to say, mind you, but more often than not I think he's talking sense.

There has been a lot of discussion about the national team's program over the next 12 months. Does a plan exist?

>>Yes, we have one. Contrary to what some people are saying, there is definitely a program in place but I don't think it's necessary to make it public. But people can rest assured that one exists. I've put forward my plan and the people who really matter have got a copy.

WORDS: MATTHEW HALL

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF FRANK FARINA

>>PG/10

>1 A player punches an opponent in the face just before kick-off and is sent from the field. Does his team start the game with 10 players?

>2 A penalty has been awarded. Is a defender permitted to stand a metre from the goal line, just outside the penalty area, when the kick is about to be taken?

>3 You're at a crowded local park on a Saturday afternoon watching some junior teams in end-to-end action. Play is in progress in one game when a ball from an adjoining field lands on the pitch and hits the match ball. What action, if any, should the referee take?

>4 It's a Sunday morning. Some players from your team have had a big Saturday night and have gone missing, two others have the flu, your goalkeeper has been called into work and the ring-ins your centre forward tried to organise haven't shown up. What is the minimum number of players a team must have on the field before the game is called off?

>5 A midfielder for top side FC Showpony has a broken arm. Is he permitted to play wearing any form of plaster or fibreglass cast?

>6 A defender takes a throw in which strikes the referee and rebounds back to the thrower, who then whacks the ball downfield. No other players have touched the ball. What action should the referee take?

>7 A defender has received treatment for an injury and wishes to rejoin the game from near the goalposts. When can he run back on?

>8 The Laws of the Game state that the maximum width of the field markings is five inches (12cm) but there is no minimum width. However, the Laws *do* specify the width of the goal-line *between* the goalposts. What is it?

YOU ARE THE REF!

AUSTRALIA VS PARAGUAY: the officials

>>

Referee: Simon Micallef
Assistant referees: John Bowdler, Alex Spiroski
Fourth official: Con Diomis
Inspector: Roger Doenau

>>

Referee: Mark Shield
Assistant referees: Ben Wilson, Stewart Lockrey
Fourth official: Matthew Breeze
Inspector: Alan Kibble

Referee: Gerry Connolly
Assistant referees: Michael Perry, Matthew Cream
Fourth official: Jeremy Blanks
Inspector:

"Offside!" "Ref, are you blind?!" "Book 'im Ref, he's been doing it all day!" We all think we're the experts, whether watching from the sideline, the TV, or the bench. But how much do we really know?

>9 While play is in progress, the FC Showpony number seven is given permission to leave the field of play for treatment to a minor injury. As he's receiving treatment the ball comes near him, he gains possession, shoots, and scores. What action should the referee take?

>10 A fullback controls the ball with his feet and, knowing that his goalkeeper cannot play the ball with his hands if he kicks the ball to him, deliberately lifts the ball into the air with his foot and then heads the ball to the goalkeeper.
What action should the referee take if:
i) the goalkeeper touches the ball with his hands
ii) the goalkeeper touches the ball with his feet
iii) the goalkeeper doesn't touch the ball?

COMPILED BY: PHIL HAFEY

>>ANSWERS

*AUSTRALIA: LG Socceroos

Frank Farina has chosen a talented squad to face Paraguay. While some familiar faces are absent after a long and arduous season in Europe, each player on show over these three games is fighting for a place in the squad that will contest the upcoming Oceania Nations Cup. The LG Socceroos currently in the spotlight are drawn from around the world: the Premier League, Bundesliga, J-League and stars of our own NSL.

PAUL AGOSTINO

■Position: Striker ■Age: 24 ■Date Of Birth: 9th June 1975 ■Current Club: TSV 1860 Munich (Germany), 3rd season ■Previous Clubs: Bristol City (England), Young Boys (Switzerland) Yverdon (Switzerland) West Adelaide ■Height: 184cm ■Weight: 78kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 8 (6/2) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 3 (1/2) ■Int'l Debut: v Chile (0-3), Chile, April 1996 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Czech Republic, Teplice, March 2000 ■Other Representative Honours: U/23, 1996 Olympic Games (Atlanta); U/20, 1993 ■World Youth Cup (Australia); 1991 World Youth Championship (Italy)

CON BLATSIS

■Position: Defender ■Age: 22 ■Date Of Birth: 6th July 1977 ■Current Club: South Melbourne, 5th season ■Previous Clubs: n/a ■Height: 190cm ■Weight: 86kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 0 ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 0 ■Int'l Debut: n/a ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: n/a ■Other Representative Honours: U/23, Current Squad Member (13 games) U/20, 1997 World Youth Cup Finals (Malaysia)

BRETT EMERTON

■Position: Midfielder ■Age: 21 ■Date Of Birth: 22nd February 1979 ■Current Club: Sydney Olympic, 4th season ■Previous Clubs: n/a ■Height: 185cm ■Weight: 85kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 0 (5/5) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 1 (0/1) ■Int'l Debut: v Chile (0-1), Melbourne, February 1998 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Brazil, Melbourne November 1999 ■Other Representative Honours: U/23 Current Squad Member (25 games); U/20 1999 World Youth Cup (Nigeria); 1997 World Youth Cup (Malaysia); U/17, 1995 World Youth Cup (Ecuador)

CRAIG FOSTER

■Position: Midfielder ■Age: 31 ■Date Of Birth: 5th April 1969 ■Current Club: Crystal Palace (England) 2nd season ■Previous Clubs: Portsmouth (England), Marconi Stallions (Australia), Adelaide City (Australia); Ernst Borel (Hong Kong) PAS (Singapore); Sydney United (Australia) Sunshine (Australia) ■Height: 180cm ■Weight: 83kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 24 (24/0) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 3 (3/0) ■Int'l Debut: v Ghana (2-0), Durban, South Africa, September 1996 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Czech Republic, Teplice, March 2000

STEVE HORVAT

■Position: Defender ■Age: 29 ■Date Of Birth: 4th March 1971 ■Current Club: Carlton, 1st season ■Previous Clubs: Hajduk Split (Croatia), Melbourne Knights (Australia) ■Height: 186 cm ■Weight: 85 kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 21 (20,) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 0 ■Int'l Debut: v South Africa (1-0), Sydney, 1994 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Japan, Adelaide, February 1998 ■Other Representative Honours: 1996 Olympic Games Finals (Atlanta); U/20, 1989 World Youth Cup qualifiers; U/17 1987 World Youth Championship Finals (Canada)

ZELJKO KALAC

■Position: Goalkeeper ■Age: 27 ■Date Of Birth: 6th December 1972 ■Current Club: Roda JC Kerkrade Holland), 2nd season ■Previous Clubs: Sydney United; Leicester City (England); Wolverhampton Wanderers (England) ■Height: 202cm ■Weight: 91kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 33 (30/3) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 0 ■Int'l Debut: v Malaysia (0-1), Djakarta, Indonesia, August 1992 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Czech Republic, Teplice, March 2000 ■Other Representative Honours: n/a

STEPHEN LAYBUTT

■Position: Defender ■Age: 22 ■Date Of Birth: 3rd September 1977 ■Current Club: Parramatta Power 1st season ■Previous Clubs: Belimare Hiroshima (Japan); Brisbane Strikers; Wollongong Wolves ■Height: 185cm ■Weight: 85kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 7 (4/3) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 1 (1/0) ■Int'l Debut: v Manchester United, Sydney, July 1999 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Hungary, Budapest, February 2000 ■Other Representative Honours: U/23 Current Squad Member (11 games)

PAUL OKON

■Position: Defender/Midfielder ■Age: 28 ■Date Of Birth: 5th April 1972 ■Current Club: Fiorentina (Italy), 1st season ■Previous Clubs: Lazio (Italy); FC Brugge (Belgium); Marconi Stallions ■Height: 180cm ■Weight: 80kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 13 (9/4) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 0 ■Int'l Debut: v Hajduk Split (1-0), Sydney, June 1990 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Czech Republic, Teplice, March 2000 ■Other Representative Honours: U/23, 1992 Olympic Games (Barcelona), U/20, 1991 World Youth Cup Finals (Portugal)

TONY POPOVIC

■Position: Defender ■Age: 26 ■Date Of Birth: 4th July 1973 ■Current Club: Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Japan), 4th season ■Previous Clubs: Sydney United ■Height: 193cm ■Weight: 90kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 24 (23/1) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 0 ■Int'l Debut: v Colombia (0-1), Sydney, February 1995 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Czech Republic, Teplice, March 2000 ■Other Representative Honours: U/23, 1992 Olympic Games (Barcelona); U/20, 1991 World Youth Cup (Portugal), U/17 1989 World Youth Championship (Scotland)

DANNY TIATTO

■Position: Midfielder ■Age: 27 ■Date Of Birth: 22nd May 1973 ■Current Club: Manchester City England), 2nd season ■Previous Clubs: Stoke City (England); Salernitana (Italy), Melbourne Knights ■Height: 175cm ■Weight: 73kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 14 (10/4) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 0 ■Int'l Debut: v Colombia (0-0), Brisbane, February 1995 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Hungary, Budapest, February 2000 ■Other Representative Honours: U/23, 1996 Olympic Games (Atlanta,

CARL VEART

■Position: Midfielder ■Age: 30 ■Date Of Birth: 21st May 1970 ■Current Club: Adelaide City Force, 2nd season of current contract ■Previous Clubs: Millwall (England); Crystal Palace (England), Sheffield United (England) Adelaide City ■Height: 182cm ■Weight: 82kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 22 (17/5) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 9 (7/2) ■Int'l Debut: v Solomon Islands (2-1) Honiara, September 1992 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Tahiti Brisbane October 1998 ■Other Representative Honours: U/23, 1992 Olympic Games Finals (Barcelona)

AURELIO VIDMAR

■Position: Midfielder/Striker ■Age: 33 ■Date Of Birth: 3rd February 1967 ■Current Club: Adelaide City ■Previous Clubs: Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Japan); Tenerife (Spain); Sion (Switzerland); Feyenoord (Holland) Standard Liege (Belgium); SV Waregem (Belgium); KV Kortrijk (Belgium) ■Height: 182cm ■Weight: 78kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 42 (34/8) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 4 (3/1) ■Int'l Debut: v Dinamo Zagreb (1-1), Sydney, February 1988 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Manchester United, Sydney, July 1999 ■Other Rep Honours, 1996 Olympics (Atlanta,

>>PG/12

■Position: Goalkeeper ■Age: 28 ■Date Of Birth: 13th January 972 ■Current Club: Manchester United, st season of current contract ■Previous Clubs: Aston Villa (England) Sydney United ■Height: 185cm ■Weight: 85kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 19 (17/2) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 1 (1/0) ■ nt'l Debut: v Moscow Torpedo (0-2), Sydney, January 1990 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos, v Hungary, Budapest, February 2000 ■Other Representative Honours: U/23, 1992 Olympic Games, Barcelona) U/20, 1991 World Youth Cup Finals (Portugal)

■Position: Striker ■Age, 27 ■Date Of Birth: 23rd December 1972 ■Current Club: Sydney Olympic ■Previous Clubs: Rapid Vienna (Austria) West Adelaide (Australia) ■Height: 175cm ■Weight: 74kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 2 (2/0) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 0 ■Int'l Debut: v Slovakia (0-0), Chile February 2000 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos, v Bulgaria, Chile February 2000 ■Other Representative Honours: n/a

LUKE CASSERLY

■Position: Defender ■Age: 26 ■Date Of Birth: 11th December 973 ■Current Club: AIK Solna (Sweden) st season ■Previous Clubs: Northern Spirit, Marconi Stallions ■Height: 185cm ■Weight: 75 kg ■ nt'l Appearances ('A'/other): 5 (5/0) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 0 ■ nt'l Debut: v New Zealand (1-0), Melbourne, January 1997 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Czech Republic, Teplice, March 2000 ■Other Representative Honours: U/23, 1996 Olympic Games (Atlanta): U/20 993 World Youth Cup lead-up matches

■Position: Striker ■Age: 24 ■Date Of Birth: 30th December 975 ■Current Club: Wollongong Wolves 4th season ■Previous Clubs: n/a ■Height: 180cm ■Weight: 70 kg ■Int' Appearances ('A'/other): 6 (6/0) ■ nt' Goals ('A'/other): (1/0) ■Int'l Debut: v Fiji (3-), Brisbane September 1998 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Bulgaria Chile, February 2000 ■Other Representative Honours: n/a

■Position: Midfielder ■Age: 27 ■Date Of Birth: 24th March 1973 ■Current Club: Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Japan), 1st season ■Previous Clubs: Wolverhampton Wanderers (England); Leicester City (England); Marconi Stallions ■Height: 173cm ■Weight: 68kg ■ nt'l Appearances ('A'/other): 20 (18/2) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 2 (2/0) ■ nt'l Debut: v Kuwait (1-0), Singapore, April 993 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Czech Republic, Teplice, March 2000 ■Other Rep Honours: 996 & 1992 Olympic Games 99 World Youth Cup (Portugal) 989 World Youth Championship (Scotland)

STAN LAZARIDIS

■Position: Defender/Midfielder ■Age: 27 ■Date Of Birth: 6th August 1972 ■Current Club: Birmingham City (England), 1st season ■Previous Clubs: West Ham United (England); West Adelaide ■Height: 175cm ■Weight: 76kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 30 (27/3) ■ nt'l Goals ('A'/other): 0 ■Int' Debut: v Kuwait (1-0), Singapore, April 1993 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Czech Republic, Teplice March 2000 ■Other Representative Honours: U/17 1989 World Youth Championship Finals (Scotland)

SIMON COLOSIMO

■Position: Defender ■Age: 2 ■Date Of Birth: 8th January 979 ■Current Club: Carlton ■Previous Clubs: n/a ■Height: 183cm ■Weight: 83kg ■Int' Appearances ('A'/other): 6 (4/2) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 0 ■Int'l Debut: v Fiji (3-), Brisbane September 1998 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Manchester United, Sydney, July 999 ■Other Representative Honours: U-23 Current Squad Member (9 Games, U/20, 999 World Youth Cup Finals (Nigeria) U/20, 1997 World Youth Cup qualifiers

GABRIEL MENDEZ

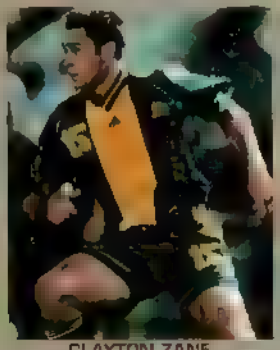
■Position: Midfielder ■Age: 27 ■Date Of Birth: 2th March 973 ■Current Club: Sydney Olympic st season ■Previous Clubs: Northern Spirit; Marconi Stallions; Notts County (England); Parramatta Eagles ■Height: 68cm ■Weight: 68kg ■Int' Appearances ('A'/other): 9 (8/1) ■Int' Goals ('A'/other): 0 ■ nt'l Debut: v Kuwait (0-0), Kuala Lumpur September 994 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Japan, Adelaide, February 998 ■Other Representative Honours: U/23, 1996 Olympic Games qualifiers

SHAUN MURPHY

■Position: Defender ■Age: 29 ■Date Of Birth: 5th November 1970 ■Current Club: Sheffield United (England) 1st season ■Previous Clubs: West Bromwich Albion (England) Notts County (England); Heidelberg; Blacktown City, Perth Italia ■Height: 185cm ■Weight: 76kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 4 (4/0) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 0 ■ nt'l Debut: v Chile (lost 1-2), Chile, February 2000 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Czech Republic Teplice March 2000 ■Other Rep Honours: 992 Olympic Games (Barcelona); 1989 World Youth Cup qualifiers

■Position: Defender ■Age: 26 ■Date Of Birth: 7th August 973 ■Current Club: Wolverhampton Wanderers (England), 3rd season ■Previous Clubs: Crystal Palace (England); South Melbourne; Heidelberg; Sunshine ■Height: 180cm ■Weight: 73kg ■ nt'l Appearances ('A'/other): 19 (6/3) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 1 (1/0) ■ nt'l Debut: v Kuwait (0-0), Malaysia, September 1994 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Czech Republic, Teplice, March 2000 ■Other Rep Honours: 1996 Olympic Games (Atlanta); 1993 World Youth Cup Finals (Australia)

■Position: Striker ■Age, 24 ■Date Of Birth: 9th October 1975 ■Current Club: Glasgow Celtic (Scotland) st season ■Previous Clubs: Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia) Melbourne Knights ■Height: 187cm ■Weight: 9 kg ■Int'l Appearances ('A'/other): 18 (16/2) ■Int'l Goals ('A'/other): 2 (2/0) ■Int'l Debut: v South Korea (1-1), South Korea, September 1993 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Czech Republic, Teplice, March 2000 ■Other Rep Honours: U/23 996 Olympic Games (Atlanta) U/20, 1995 World Youth Cup (Qatar)



CLAYTON ZANE

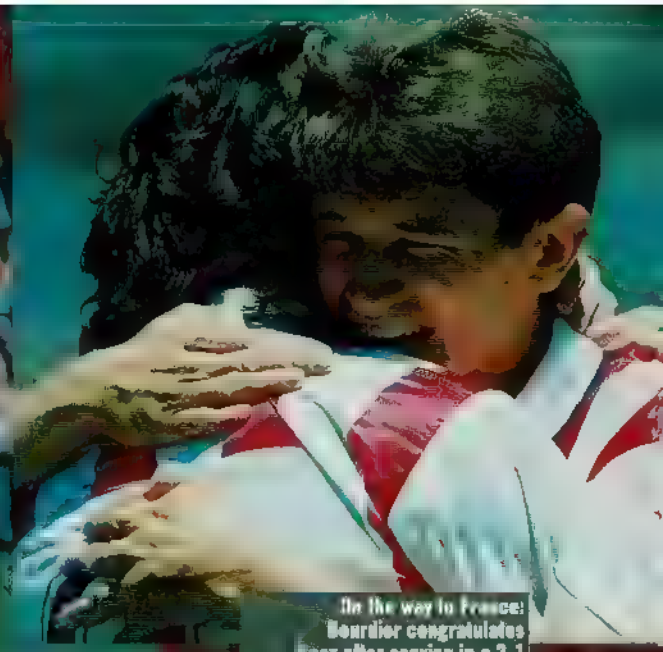
■Position: Striker ■Age 22 ■Date Of Birth: 2th July 1977 ■Current Club: Molde (Norway) st season ■Previous Clubs: Northern Spirit; Newcastle Breakers ■Height: 88cm ■Weight: 90kg ■ nt'l Appearances ('A'/other): 3 (1/2) ■ nt'l Goals ('A'/other): 0 ■Int'l Debut: v Manchester United (0-2) Melbourne, July 1999 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Czech Republic Teplice, March 2000 ■Other Representative Honours: U/23, Current Squad Member (12 games) U/20, 1997 World Youth Cup qualifiers

■Position: Striker ■Age, 26 ■Date Of Birth: 13th April 1974 ■Current Club: SSV Ulm (Germany) 2nd season ■Previous Clubs: FC Aarau (Switzerland); Sydney United ■Height: 183cm ■Weight: 80kg ■Int' Appearances ('A'/other): 6 (6/0) ■Int' Goals ('A'/other): 0 ■Int'l Debut: v New Zealand (1-0) Melbourne, January 997 ■Last Match For LG Socceroos: v Bulgaria Chile, February 2000 ■Other Representative Honours: n/a

"IT'S A BIG SQUAD TO CHOOSE FROM. THEY'RE ALL QUALITY PLAYERS." – FRANK FARINA

>>PG/13

Few experts considered Paraguay would impress at France '98. How wrong they all were!



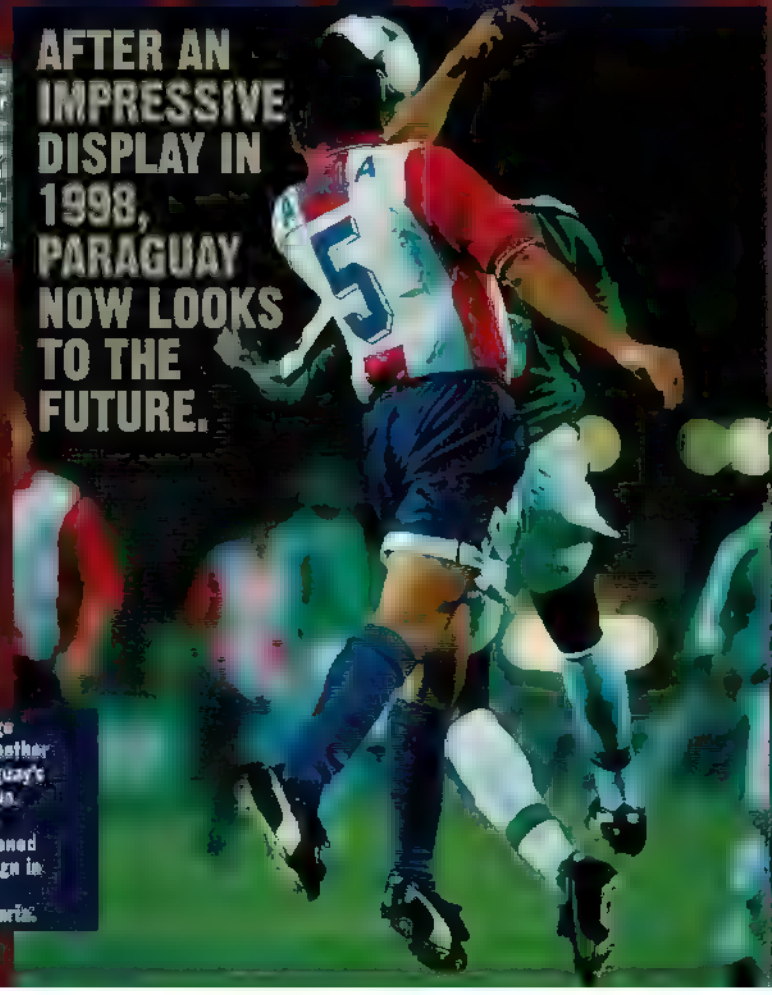
On the way to France: Nunez congratulates Baez after scoring in a 2-1 win against Ecuador

paraguay

FRANCE

<<Jose Cardozo starred in Paraguay's victory over eventual group winners Nigeria. >>Celso Ayala demonstrates his aerial strength against Nigeria. Paraguay rocked France '98 with their win.

AFTER AN IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY IN 1998, PARAGUAY NOW LOOKS TO THE FUTURE.



EUROPEAN GIANTS SPAIN AND BULGARIA WERE KNOCKED OUT AS PARAGUAY MARCHED IMPRESSIVELY ONWARDS

<<Left: Hugo Brizuela – another star of Paraguay's World Cup run. <<Far left: Paraguay opened their campaign in Montpellier against Bulgaria.

paraguay > the squad

Jose Luis Chailavert: Paraguay's talented 'keeper, captain, taker of free kicks, on-field general and national clown prince.

PARAGUAY BRING TO AUSTRALIA A TEAM HUNGRY FOR MORE SUCCESS. THEY ARE NO LONGER CONMEBOL'S POOR RELATION.

Jose Cardozo wriggles past Ben Iroha of Nigeria in Toulouse. Paraguay's win sent them through to the round-of-16 to meet hosts France.

Julio Cesar Enciso leaves Bulgarian legend Hristo Stoitchkov trailing his dust in Montpellier. The two teams played a tough 0-0 draw.

- JOSE LUIS CHILAVERT — Velez Sarsfield
- JUSTO VILLAR — Sol de America
- NESTOR ISASI — Guarani
- JUAN CARDOZO — Universidad de Encarnacion
- ANGEL ANTAR — San Lorenzo
- DARIO CABALLERO — Cerro Porteno
- DELIO TOLEDO — Espanyol de Barcelona
- LUIS ROMERO — Santos Laguna
- ESTANISLAO STRUWAY — Cerro Porteno
- NESTOR ZELAYA — Olimpia
- NERY ORTIZ — 12 Octubre Itagua
- RAUL AVIANIAGALDE — 12 Octubre Itagua
- EDGAR ROBLES — San Lorenzo
- VICTOR HUGO ORTIZ — Atletico Colegiales
- ROLAND GAONA — Sol de America
- WALTER AVALOS — Olimpia
- MIGUEL CACERES — Guarani
- JULIO COLMAN — San Lorenzo
- TOMAS GONZALES — Cerro Cora
- ISIDRO CANDIA — Sportivo Luqueno

Australian Institute of Sport

SOCCER STARS
>>STAN LAZARIDIS
>>MARK BOSNICH
>>BRETT EMERTON
UMBRO
SHARP
digital
LG

*THE STAR: jose luis chilavert

AUSTRALIA VERSUS PARAGUAY
SYDNEY, BRISBANE, MELBOURNE
JUNE 2001

1

>>PAUL OKON

>>MARK VIDUKA

It takes a brave man to distract the opposition
by waving his hands. We love soccer.

Official sponsor of the NSL. www.ansett.com.au

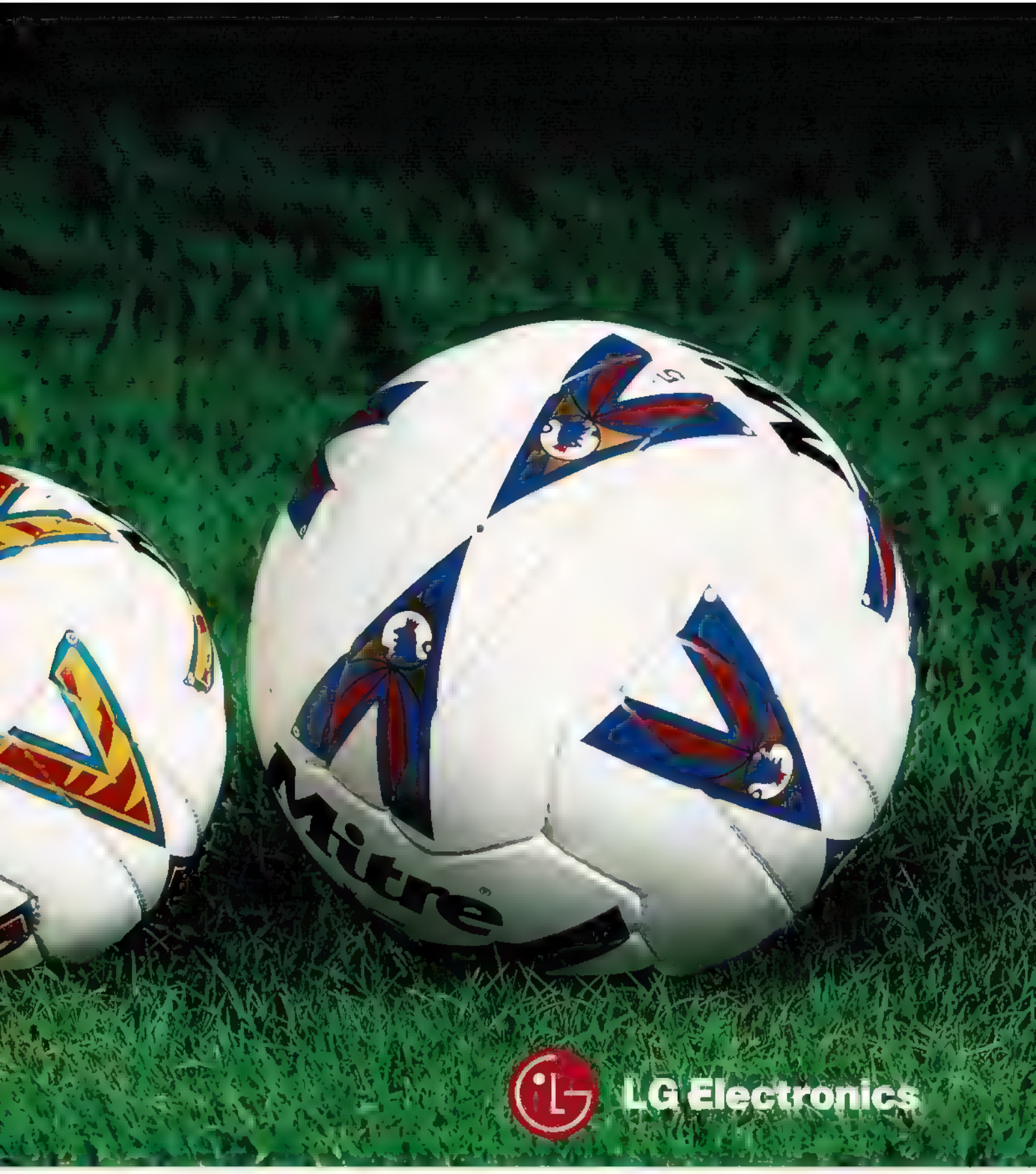
ANSETT AUSTRALIA

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Nurturing Australian Soccer.

For the first time in history, one company is providing Australian Soccer with the resources it needs for a healthy development at all levels of the game. From the Socceroos, Australia's premier national team, right through to thousands of young kids, even those just starting to play, LG Electronics will be giving its support, both on and off the field.

LG's sponsorship arrangement consists of the naming rights of the Socceroos, now



called the LG Socceroos, as well as extending to the other national teams including the Under 23 Australian Team, the Young Socceroos (under 20's) and the Joeys (under 17's).

In addition, LG's grass roots support of soccer will be giving more than 350,000 registered junior players a chance to fulfil their dreams in one of the most popular and fastest growing sports in Australia.

Microwave Ovens VCR/DVD Players CDMA Mobile Phones LG SOCCEROOS

LGELEC0202

THE BU

^ **RENE HIGUITA (Colombia)**
Was dispossessed dribbling in his own half by Cameroon's Roger Milla for a goal that led to Colombia's exit from the 1990 World Cup. "I made a mistake as big as a house," he confessed afterwards. Maybe even slightly bigger. Performed the magical "scorpion kick" against England at Wembley.

JORGE CAMPOS (Mexico)
Known for his tiny stature (just 1.75 cm!) and psychedelic jerseys, which he designs himself. Is a legend in Mexico for taking the field at club level as a midfielder and forward.

>> Of the 600 odd players at France 98, few made more of an impact than Jose Luis Chilavert, however anyone who paid close attention to Paraguay's statistics in qualifying for the last World Cup soon realised that Chilavert was more than your average keeper. In fact, it is fair to say that Chilavert's amazing feats make him a national icon.

A glance at Paraguay's qualifying campaign spoke volumes. For a start, Chilavert had been sent off and suspended for four matches after a tangle with Colombia's Faustino Asprilla. Then there was the little matter of the free-kick Chilavert scored from against Argentina. Chilavert's dead ball antics was old news to South Americans but the rest of the world did a double-take. The goalkeeper scored with a free kick? What's with that?

The big question was whether Chilavert be so brazen as to attempt something similar in France. We only had to wait for Paraguay's opening match against Bulgaria. With 20 minutes to go, the game seemed set for a goalless draw. The highlight so far, inevitably perhaps, being an excellent save by Chilavert from a fierce free-kick by Trifon Ivanov. Then, the Paraguayans were awarded a free-kick.

Chilavert strode forward from his penalty area, his black jersey unmistakable amid the red and white shirts of the two teams. The crowd and the billions watching on TV around the world drew breath. From 25 metres out, Chilavert launched a shot towards the top left-hand corner of the Bulgarian goal. It took a spectacular leap from Bulgaria's keeper Zdravko Zdravkov to keep the ball out. Chilavert had truly arrived.

Paraguay continued to surprise many at France '98. The South Americans exited the tournament only after a golden goal from eventual champions France in the round-of-16. Chilavert was Paraguay's centre piece and cajoled his troops every minute of the way as goalkeeper, captain, on-field general, and dead-ball specialist. One English newspaper quipped: "He probably makes the half-time cuppa, too!"

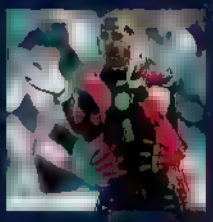
While the world was alerted to the keeper's brilliance at France '98, the truth

'IN TERMS OF CARS SO

>>PG/24

LLDOG BARKS DOWN UNDER

Jose Luis Chilavert is one of football's truly unique personalities. From France '98 to Velez Sarsfield the Paraguayan goalkeeper has never failed to capture the headlines.



BRUCE GROBBELAAR (Zimbabwe)
The former Liverpool goalkeeper also enjoyed expeditions out of his penalty area. Grobbelaar's most famous comedy moment? Perhaps his "wobbly knees" routine during the 1984 European Cup final penalty shootout against AS Roma.

HUGO GATTI (Argentina)
Sadly missed the 1978 World Cup where he would surely have made some type of impression. He once borrowed a photographer's chair to sit on while the action was at the other end of the ground. He was also known to run to the corner flag to wipe his brow.

Is that the 34-year-old Paraguayan had been making the headlines in South America for years.

Nicknamed "The Bulldog", Chilavert (who often wears a motif of the animal across his jersey) has spent all but five seasons of his 17-year career playing in Argentina. He was voted South American Player of the Year in 1996 while with his current Argentine club, Velez Sarsfield.

Paraguay is considered by some South Americans to be the poor cousin of that continent's football family. So Chilavert has taken on an unofficial role as his country's very own soccer ambassador in Argentina. It is a role that has occasionally got him into hot water.

Chilavert received a suspended prison sentence for his supposed role in an ugly fracas during a league match in Argentina. The goalkeeper claimed he was a victim of prejudice. "[Argentines] cannot stand the thought of a Paraguayan being the best in their country at something. They think Paraguayans belong on building sites or cleaning the kitchens of the rich." It took intervention from the Paraguayan ambassador to Argentina to smooth that one over.

It's probably no surprise to learn Chilavert is a master of self confidence. The keeper has on occasion declared himself the best goalkeeper in the world, and, indeed, was named as one of two goalkeepers in the FIFA All-Star squad following France '98. "I have broken the mould," he says. "In terms of cars, some goalkeepers would be FIATs, I would be the latest, most powerful Mercedes-Benz."

A skilled shot-stopper though he may be, it remains at the other end of the park that he continues to astonish. "The Bulldog" recently netted a hat-trick – all penalties – in a league match for Velez Sarsfield and tested historians in finding another occasion when a goalkeeper has scored three times in a game.

WORDS: PATRICK MANGAN

SOME GOALKEEPERS WOULD BE FIATS. I WOULD BE THE LATEST, MOST POWERFUL, MERCEDES-BENZ.

>>PG/25

Paraguay hinted at things to come at France '98 with their opening 0-0 draw against Bulgaria.

Celso Ayala's World Cup dream ends. France beat Paraguay with an extra-time 'Golden Goal'.

PARAGUAY'S PROUD FOOTBALL

With a population of just over five million and occupying an area barely half the size of New South Wales, it's hardly surprising that when many people think of South America, Paraguay isn't the first country to spring to mind. On the football pitch too, Paraguay is often perceived as dwarfed by the big brash brothers from Argentina and Brazil.

But given its relatively small population, Paraguay has an impressive footballing pedigree. Five times qualifiers for the World Cup finals (Australian soccer fans would just about settle for that), the Paraguayans have reached the last 16 of the competition on their last two appearances, in 1986 and, of course, two years ago in France.

PARAGUAY HAS REACHED THE LAST 16 OF THE WORLD CUP ON THEIR LAST TWO APPEARANCES, IN 1986 AND, OF COURSE, TWO YEARS AGO IN FRANCE

Dirkur Miguel Benitez finds the net.

At France '98, Paraguay could easily have found themselves playing off against Italy for a place in the semi-finals with an ounce more luck. In a tense second round clash with the hosts and eventual winners France, the South Americans soaked up the pressure for 113 minutes – keeping almost two dozen French shots out of the goal. The celebrations across France to greet Laurent Blanc's golden goal were testament to the relief at finally breaking down Paraguay's stubborn resistance.

The class of '98 was a worthy successor to the previous Paraguayan squad that qualified for the World Cup finals. In 1986, Paraguay saw off Iraq 1-0 and drew 2-2 with Belgium before the intimidating task of meeting hosts Mexico before 105,000 fans in the Azteca.

In a dramatic group match, Mexico took the lead after just two minutes. Paraguay looked certain for an early exit. But Julio Cesar Romero, who had scored the winner against Iraq, equalised in the 85th minute to give the Paraguayans a toe-hold on a second-round berth. Even then, Paraguay goalkeeper Roberto Fernandez had to save a penalty from the Mexicans to ensure progress. Fans at home clustered around TV sets and bit their fingers to the bone.

By qualifying for the next stage the Paraguayan players had already sealed a place in national folklore and a 3-0 loss to England in the second round – with goals from Gary Lineker and Peter Beardsley – couldn't detract from the achievement of the tiny South American country.

Hopes are high that Paraguay can make a similar impact in Japan and South Korea in 2002. At their most recent international tournament the Paraguayans reached the quarter-finals of the Copa America (the South American championship) only to lose to eventual runners-up Uruguay in a penalty shootout.

The South American qualification marathon has already begun, with three games played out of a marathon 18 to be contested. Paraguay has made a solid start. They lost their opening match 2-0 in Peru after a scoreless first half, but bounced back with a 1-0 win in Asuncion against Uruguay. Another home fixture against Ecuador was to be played as this publication went to press.

Although any talk of Paraguayan football inevitably begins with their charismatic goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert, Paraguay is far from a one-man band. Their rising star is 18-year-old striker Roque Santa Cruz, who joined Bayern Munich in a $13 million transfer last year. Described by former Bayern coach Juup Heynckes as 'another Marco Van Basten', the teenager raised a few eyebrows when he arrived in Germany armed with, among other items, a guitar and a hammock. "No Paraguayan leaves his country without a hammock," laughed Santa Cruz when Germans asked for an explanation.

Santa Cruz scored three of Paraguay's goals in their march into the final eight of last year's Copa America. Other stand-out performers in the tournament were defender Carlos Gamarra and Miguel Benitez. Unfortunately for Benitez, who scored an excellent goal in France '98 against Nigeria, it was his missed penalty in the shootout against Uruguay that led to his team's elimination.

Paraguay come to Australia in a competitive mood, hopeful of getting vital match practice before their World Cup expedition continues by November 2001. 15 arduous games down the track, the people of Paraguay will know for sure whether the current squad will get the chance to reproduce their form of France '98 in Japan and South Korea.

Paraguay stunned many with their win over Nigeria.

>>PG/26

TRADITION

LIVING IN THE SEVENTIES

"It was wonderful but daunting," says Australian legend Eddie Krncevic of his headline-making trip to Paraguay

The Socceroos have never faced Paraguay in a senior international but the Paraguayan national stadium in Asuncion was the venue for a significant moment in Australian football history. In 1979, an Australian team took part in its first world youth championships. The qualification trail took that generation's Young Socceroos to Paraguay.

Current Marconi Stallions coach Eddie Krncevic, who later carved out a 13-year professional career in Europe, was a member of the Australian squad at the time. He vividly remembers the two matches against the South Americans, as well as the passion of the Paraguayan fans.

"We lost on both occasions (2-0 and 3-0) and I don't think we touched the ball once!" recalls Krncevic, then a promising young striker for Victorian State League side Essendon Lions (those days known as Melbourne Knights). "But apart from losing the games, it was a wonderful experience in Paraguay."

It was a daunting experience – there were 65,000 people at those games, he adds. "Our coach, Rudi Gutendorf, had said some uncomplimentary things about conditions in Paraguay, which the locals weren't too happy about. When we walked onto the ground, we got pelted with oranges, bananas, all sorts of stuff. At one stage I think they had to stop the game. The pitch had a moat around it, there were police and dogs and everything!"

Krncevic made headlines off the pitch while in Paraguay. "We had a day off and Ian Rowden [captain of the Young Socceroos] and I met two girls and drove for about 40 kilometres to a resort and had a few beers."

"The next day, the photos were splashed on the front pages of local newspapers. On the back page of the paper was a photo of Ian with his arm around a girl and me with the other girl! The headline was 'This is how the Australian team prepares for matches!'"

"WHEN WE WALKED ONTO THE GROUND, WE GOT PELTED WITH ORANGES, BANANAS, ALL SORTS OF STUFF. AT ONE STAGE I THINK THEY HAD TO STOP THE GAME."

Brushes with the Paraguayan tabloids aside, there was no shame in defeat for the Australian team. Paraguay later went on to reach the quarter-finals at the 1979 world youth championships, while for the Young Socceroos greater achievements lay just around the corner.

■ WORDS: PATRICK MANGAN

"CAN YOU HEAR PARAGUAY? WHOA, WHOA!"

>> So just where does Paraguay's [illegible] ironic emerge from? According to 1996 census figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics just 285 people in the whole of Australia identified themselves as Paraguayan. Laidley in Q[illegible] has a large Paraguayan community of 70 strong. The Melbourne suburb of Sunshine is home to 7 Paraguayans with a similar population found in the Sydney suburb of Fairfield. And a big hello to the Dandenong Seven. We know you're out there!

A Dandenong street scene, yesterday.

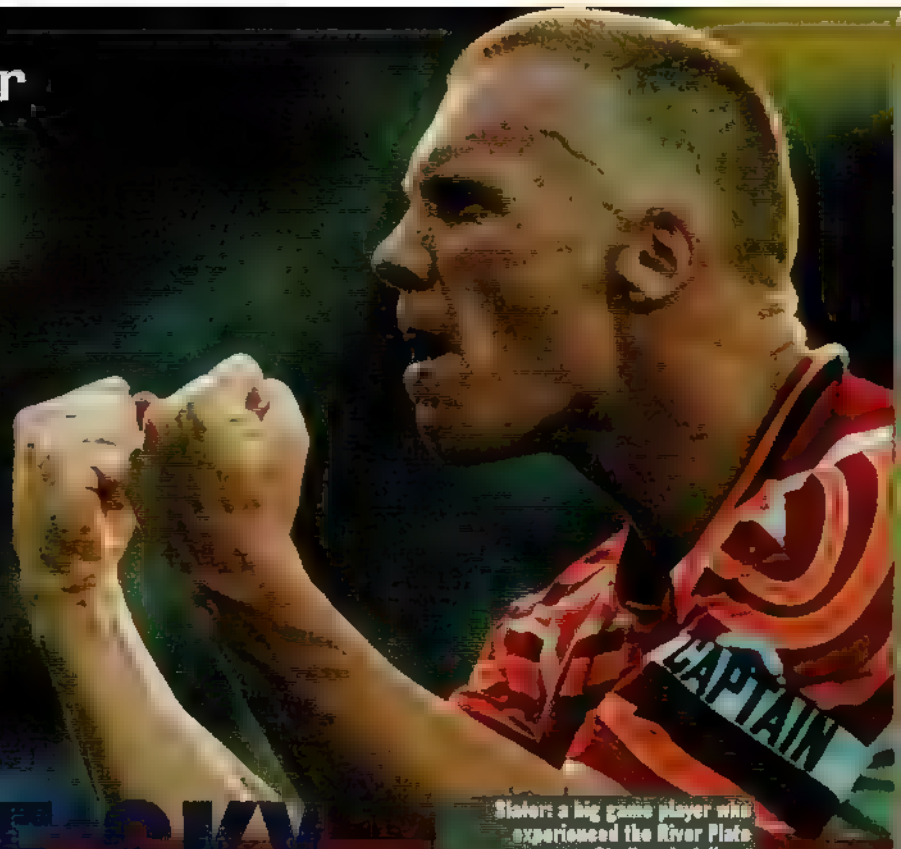
Hold the back page! Paraguay 3, Nigeria 1!

Celeste Ayala and Hugo Benitez start the celebrations after beating Nigeria.

>>FACT FILE >>Paraguay

>Geography: Paraguay is a landlocked country of South America bordered by Bolivia and Brazil on the north and Argentina on the south. Its economy is primarily agricultural. The principal exports are cotton and soya beans. The Itaipu [illegible] hydro-electric project. >History: [illegible] 1537. The country was part of Spain's Rio de la Plata territory but only sparsely settled by Spaniards. Paraguay achieved independence in 1811 when local military leaders led a bloodless coup [illegible] >Capital: [illegible] >Area: [illegible] >Population: 4, 828, 000 (1995) >Currency: 1 Guarani = 100 centimos >Religions: [illegible] >Ethnic Groups: [illegible] Amerindian 3%, German 1.7% >Languages: Spanish, Guarani

With a trip to South America needed for 2002 qualification, Socceroo champion Robbie Slater recalls Australia's 1993 Buenos Aires date with Argentina



Slater: a big game player who experienced the River Plate Stadium in full cry

WHEN THE SKY OPENS UP

>>> I'd seen tapes of the 1978 World Cup Final which was held at the River Plate Stadium but it didn't prepare me for playing there. The atmosphere was unbelievable even when we walked out to inspect the pitch. The entire crowd whistled at us, creating an ear-piercing screech. I couldn't hear anything else and my ears rang for hours afterwards.

When we eventually came out for the kick-off, the sky opened up and we were buried under waves and waves of ticker tape. The crowd started to chant, "AR-GEN-TI-NA!!!", and every single person in the stadium jumped up and down at the same time. It seemed as if the whole stadium had been turned into one huge mass. The stadium swayed and shook and, just like the people inside it, it seemed to jump up and down. The people became the stadium. The stadium became the people. It was frightening.

At full-time I slumped to the ground and stared into, well, nothing. I'm not sure how long I sat there. When I eventually got to my feet I looked around the stadium. It was a once in a lifetime experience to play in front of so many football-crazy people. I felt I had to applaud. It was all quite spontaneous. A small section of the crowd responded. The rest of our boys joined in and before we knew what was happening we were receiving a standing ovation. It was heartbreaking but it was beautiful.

As is some sort of tradition with World Cup campaigns the team headed out to a nightclub after the match. Buenos Aires proved no exception. We were crowded around a few tables, minding our own business, when we noticed a commotion near the entrance. People at other tables looked over, whispering and pointing. Suddenly, the crowd parted. Three huge guys entered the room. A few paces behind them were another three equally huge guys. There was pandemonium. It was like a CIA operation.

"Who's this?" asked one of our lot. "The President?"

No, this person was more important than a president. Somewhere in between the six gorillas was Diego Maradona. There was a group of about 10 people with him. They moved as one, straight past us, and into a dark, sectioned-off area at the back of the club on the other side of the dance floor. The bodyguards stood in front of the little alcove so no one could get by unless they were specifically invited. We turned away, shook our heads, and returned to our drinks.

Ten minutes later, there was a tap on my shoulder.

"Maradona wants to see you two," said one of the goons, gesturing to me and Aurelio Vidmar.

"Pardon?" I asked.

"Diego would like to see you both," said the guy again. "He would like you to share a drink."

I turned to Aurelio. "What do we do?" I asked.

"We go, of course!" said Aurelio.

"THIS PERSON WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN A PRESIDENT. SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN THE SIX GORILLAS WAS DIEGO MARADONA"

>>PG 20

FROM *ROBBIE SLATER: THE HARD WAY* BY ROBBIE SLATER WITH MATTHEW HALL, PUBLISHED BY HARPERSPORTS, AN IMPRINT OF HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS. RRP: $24.95. COPYRIGHT © ROBBIE SLATER AND MATTHEW HALL. REPRINTED WITH THE PERMISSION OF HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS.

Brett Emerton has already impressed against the world's best defences.

ALL EYES ON A PRIZE

THE OLYROOS FOCUS ON SYDNEY

"I LOVE PLAYING IN FRONT OF BIG CROWDS AND SHOWING OFF"

With a nod to the future, Frank Farina has selected five of Raul Blanco's Olympic squad to face Paraguay

>> Five years ago, two 15-year-old boys from the suburbs of Sydney climbed aboard a plane and flew halfway around the world. They has just embarked on a grand adventure which would finally realise a dream. Almost since they could walk, these two kids had kicked soccer balls around the back yard, played together in local teams, and dragged their parents across Sydney showing off their soccer talents in shopping mall skill contests.

Their plane would touch down in England where the boys would spend four wide-eyed weeks training with Leeds United, one of the biggest and most popular clubs in England. The Leeds United's coaching staff would be so impressed by these raw Aussie blow-ins that they'd offer them both contracts to join the club's elite youth program.

One gladly accepted, clicked his heels, and signed on the line. With an English father, he'd manage to avoid Britain's strict work permit regulations. The other young player gladly accepted, too, but tough luck kid. With no British heritage he'd have to return home to Australia.

The one who stayed? He's called Harry Kewell. You may have heard of him. He who went home? Oh, that's Brett Emerton. He now plays for Sydney Olympic in the National Soccer League. But don't turn the page. This is no hard luck story. For Brett Emerton reckons he's a got a pretty good deal. He's captain of the Australian Olympic football team.

Emerton returned from his experience at Leeds as disheartened as any 15-year-old might have been yet remained philosophical for one so young. "It was frustrating at the time," he says today, at 21. "One door closed but another one opened. I'm still more than happy with the way my career is progressing."

Emerton has managed busy five years since his England trip and established himself as one of the most exciting players on the local scene. He represented Australia at the Under-17 World Championship in Ecuador in 1995, the 1997 Under-20 World Youth Championship in Malaysia and (again) at last year's Under-20 World Youth Championship in Nigeria.

"I've travelled the world but it's not a holiday," he says of his globetrotting. "We barely ever get out and go sightseeing. Pretty much all our time is spent in a hotel or on the training pitch. I mainly get to see a lot of cable TV."

Not that all Emerton's best displays have taken place on foreign soil. At the official opening of Sydney's Olympic Stadium in June 1999, soccer was the automatic choice as the gala sport to celebrate the occasion with an international audience. The LG Socceroos played a showpiece match against an international all-star team. The World Stars' included Inter Milan's Christian Vieri, a former Sydneysider and currently the world's most expensive footballer, and German legend Jurgen Klinsmann.

Emerton made an entrance for Australia as a second-half substitute. He upstaged the expensive talent on show by scoring with his second touch. There was no flashy celebration. Just a smile, a wipe of the brow, and a gentle jog back to the halfway line. Emerton shrugs. His feet talk: "I love playing in front of big crowds and showing off."

It's not just Australian crowds who have been checking out Emerton. After Australia played in 1997's World Youth Championship, Dutch and French clubs placed his name at the top of their wish-list. One club to show serious interest was Bordeaux, the same French club that nurtured World Cup winners Zinedine Zidane and Bixente Lizarazu.

Emerton stalled on an immediate move. Perhaps surprising in an era when Australians – some as young as 15 – are rushing overseas at the slightest smell of a lucrative full-time-professional contract. However, the right-winger decided to stay home, at least until after this year's Olympics.

"If you're good enough then the opportunities will still come," he says. "As long as I continue to keep improving my game I won't have any trouble in eventually securing a contract overseas."

"I might not have got a work permit at Leeds United," says Emerton. "But I'm captain of the Olympic team. That really is a dream come true."

WORLD SOCCER AUS

>> Uncapped at full international level, Blaisis has nevertheless impressed during his five years at South Melbourne where he has been involved in two Championship sides. A bright future is predicted for the no-nonsense defender.

>> Comfortable in midfield or defence and attracting serious interest from English Premier League sides. Quietly spoken, Laybutt is already putting pressure on more experienced players for a place in Farina's senior starting line-up.

>> A favourite with fans of former club Northern Spirit before his recent move to Norway. Zane is capable of playing as a striker or attacking midfielder.

>> Fears for his career after a horror tackle from Andy Cole against Manchester United last year. Has returned from injury ahead of schedule and put in impressive late season shows for Carlton. Superb as a defender or midfielder. His [illegible] are a treat to watch.

HAND ON HIS HEART

HEART

Paul Okon has risen to new heights since being named as Australia's captain. It's an honour no less than he deserves.

"THERE IS NO GREATER HONOUR THAN BEING CAPTAIN OF YOUR COUNTRY AND WHEN FRANK HANDED ME THE ARMBAND I FELT SO PROUD"

>>FACT FILE >>Paul Okon

>Born: April 8, 1972, Sydney >Previous Clubs: Marconi, FC Brugge (Belgium), Lazio (Italy), Fiorentina (Italy) >Socceroo Debut: 1991 v Czechoslovakia >Full International Appearances: 9

>>PG/30

ON HIS SLEEVE

It was 1996 and legendary Italian goalkeeper Dino Zoff was not mucking around. Charged with recruiting players for yet another Lazio challenge at the Scudetto, Zoff had looked high and low for a midfielder to fill a gap created by Roberto Di Matteo's shift to Chelsea.

Zoff had to placate the fans too. Di Matteo was a favourite and an established international. Just who would fill his shoes? "Paul Okon," said Zoff and promptly unveiled the 1996 Belgian Player of the Year in a sky blue shirt. For Okon, who grew up in the Sydney suburb of Fairfield, it was a dream move to play in Serie A.

Zoff knew talent when he saw it. Okon bore all the marks: championships with Brugge, official recognition as the best player in the Belgian league, plaudits from Franz Beckenbauer, Serie A clubs chasing his signature. But of course, fate would play a cruel hand. Paul Okon's time at Lazio would be frustrated by a complicated knee injury. The damage was so serious that, at times, it seemed Australia's most talented player might see a premature end to his blossoming career.

Mind over matter, work, work, work. Paul Okon is no quitter. He may have spent more time with physios than with team mates during his time in Rome but one thing continued to focus his mind – pulling on the green and gold for Australia.

Barely match fit, Okon's inspired determination to overcome his injury was reason enough for Terry Venables to frequently travel to Lazio's Rome HQ and watch Okon in training as Australia prepared for its 1997 World Cup campaign.

"I desperately wanted to play again for Australia," recalls Okon of Venables' visits to Italy. "I begged Venables to, at least include me as a substitute for the game against Iran in Melbourne but he said he couldn't take the risk and that it would have been unfair on the team. I was disappointed but I guess he was right."

Hard work and self-belief finally saw Okon overcome his long-term injury. He returned to full-fitness in early 1999 fitter and stronger than he had ever been. Nothing was going to stop him now.

Lazio led the table in that year's Serie A run-in. Okon forced his way back into a first team squad that starred Sergio Conceicao, Dejan Stankovic, Ivan De La Pena and Pavel Nedved as well as Christian Vieri – a one-time neighbour of Okon's from back home in Sydney.

Okon made his comeback against Juventus at the Stadio Olimpico in April, 1999. A high pressure championship decider as your first game in nearly two years? Lazio coach Sven Goran Eriksson didn't even blink. Okon passed with colours.

At the end of last season Okon was snapped up by Fiorentina on a free transfer. The move to Florence gave the Sydneysider a chance to re-establish himself in Italy after his injury lay-off. But it was Frank Farina who was responsible for making 1999 Paul Okon's favourite year.

"There is no greater honour than being captain of your country and when Frank said that he was handing me the armband I felt so proud," says Okon of his appointment as national team captain.

Long time observers of the Socceroos have been impressed with how Okon has taken to his new job. His natural ability commands respect from team mates while his experience in Belgium and Italy has seen Okon add an extra edge to the national team.

Insiders report early training sessions under the new regime of Frank Farina and Graham Arnold saw Okon's attitude and ability to motivate fellow players mark him as captaincy material.

FOR OKON, WHO GREW UP IN THE SYDNEY SUBURB OF FAIRFIELD, IT WAS A DREAM MOVE TO PLAY IN SERIE A.

"Captaining the team is something that I've dreamed of ever since I was a little kid," says Okon. "When I lead the boys out and then hear the national anthem being played, the hair on the back of my neck stands up. It's the best job in the world.

"The past few World Cup campaigns have been frustrating for Australian supporters. I'm going to do everything within my power to make sure that this time the fans are not going to be disappointed."

■ WORDS: PAOLO DEL ROQUE

>>Australians in Italy

They gave us the Fiat, great pasta, decent coffee, and fine gelato. We sent back some talented footballers.

In Italy, football is life. Serie A has long been recognised one of the best leagues in the world. Massive clubs, cashed up from rich benefactors and lucrative TV deals, can offer sky high salaries that attract the best players in the world. Think about it: Inter Milan don't just have Ronaldo on their books. They also claim Christian Vieri. And the 'divine' Roberto Baggio.

England and Belgium have long proved a magnet for Australians pursuing a career in Europe. It's fair to say that our players now hold their own in those countries leagues. Slowly but surely, however more and more Australians are making headway in Italy.

National coach Frank Farina was the first Australian to play in Serie A when he turned out for Bari in 1991. A port town on the eastern Italian coast, Farina's time at Bari was complicated by intra-club politics and restrictions on the amount of foreigners registered to play at one time.

John Aloisi was the first Australian to score in Serie A. In 1996, the Coventry City striker was then at Cremonese. He scored with almost his first touch of the ball in Serie A in a game against Padova.

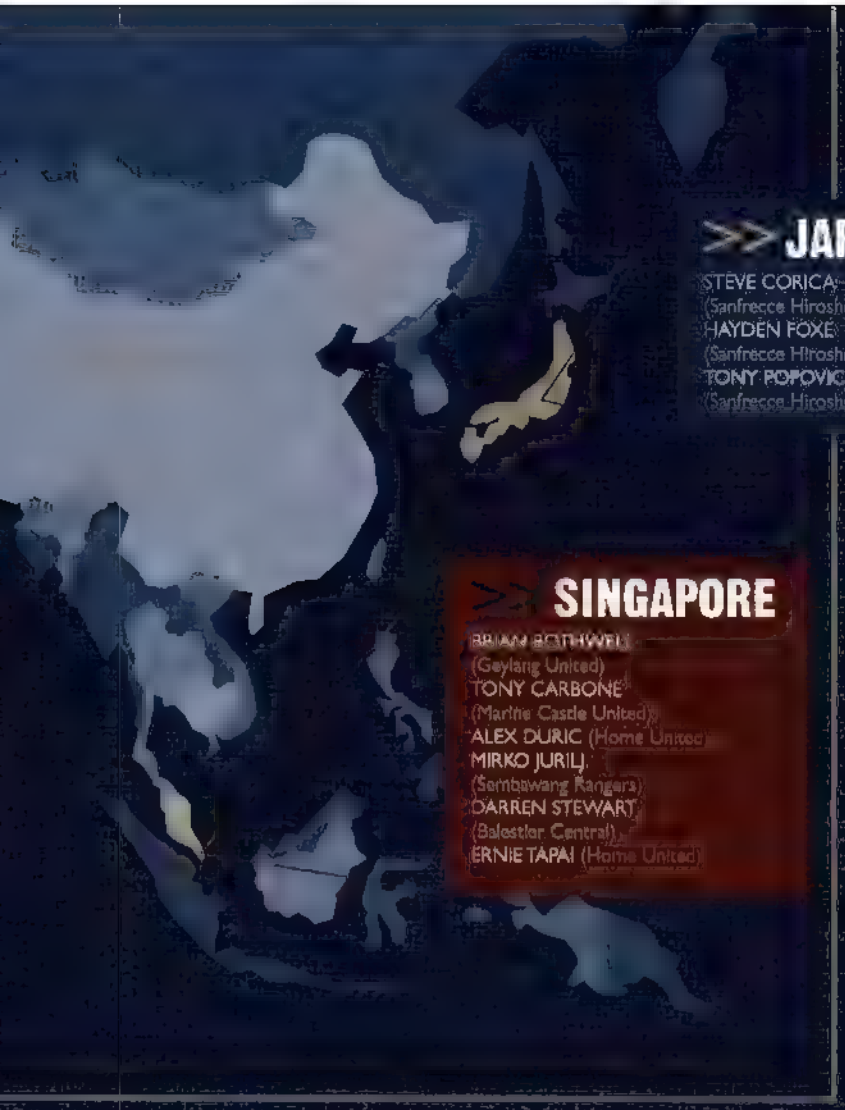
Socceroo Danny Tiatto had a spell with Serie B side Salernitana when he first moved to Europe from Melbourne Knights.

With Paul Okon's departure from Italy imminent, Olyroos Vince Grella and Marco Bresciano are set to take on senior roles as Australia's ambassadors in Italy. Both former players with Carlton, Grella now is at Serie B side Ternana while Bresciano is with Empoli. Raphael Bove, another Olympic hopeful, is at Livorno in Serie C while Nello Noto is with Torino.

Like other European sides Italian clubs also have their eyes on the future. Exciting Western Australian youngster Adrian Madeschi, who was outstanding for Australia at the Under-17 World Championship last year in New Zealand, is in his second season with Atalanta.

And no – despite his Sydney childhood and love for cricket – we don't claim Christian Vieri as Australian. Even if he does speak Aussie as well as the rest of us!

■ WORDS: PAOLO DEL ROQUE



>> JAPAN

STEVE CORICA (Sanfrecce Hiroshima)
HAYDEN FOXE (Sanfrecce Hiroshima)
TONY POPOVIC (Sanfrecce Hiroshima)

>> HOLLAND

JOSIP BACAK (Vicotr[illegible])
JASON CULINA (Ajax Amsterdam)
JOE DIDULICA (Ajax Amst[illegible])
ZELJKO KALAC (Roda JC)
JOHN MAISANO (Helmond Sport)
REECE TOLLENAERE (SV Huizen)
PETER ZOIS (NAC Breda)

>> SINGAPORE

BRIAN BOTHWELL (Geylang United)
TONY CARBONE (Marine Castle United)
ALEX DURIC (Home United)
MIRKO JURILJ (Sembawang Rangers)
DARREN STEWART (Balestier Central)
ERNIE TAPAI (Home United)

>> SCOTLAND

CHRIS COYNE (Dundee)
BEN HONEYMAN (Brechin)
STUART LOVELL (Hibernian)
CRAIG MOORE (Rangers)
TONY VIDMAR (Rangers)
MARK VIDUKA (Glasgow Celtic)
SEAN WIDERA (Hibernian)

>> ENGLAND

DANNY ALLSOPP (Manchester City)
JOHN ALOISI (Coventry City)
DAMIEN BEATTIE (Ilkeston Town)
ANDREW BERNAL (Reading)
MARK BOSNICH (Manchester United)
DIMITRI BRINIAS (Bournemouth)
JON BRADY (Rushden & Diamonds)
SHANE CANSDELL-SHERRIFF (Leeds United)
GARETH EDDS (Tranmere)
MICHAEL FERRANTE (West Ham United)
JOHN FILAN (Blackburn Rovers)
CRAIG FOSTER (Crystal Palace)
RICHARD GARCIA (West Ham United)
LEE GILMAN (Norwich City)
MARK GRAHAM (Southampton)
BRAD GROVES (Leeds United)
SCOTT GUYETT (Southport)
PAUL HARRIES (Carlisle United)
LEE HOWELLS (Cheltenham Town)
MATTTHEW HUNTER (Leeds United)
RICHARD JOHNSON (Watford)
BRAD JONES (Middlesbrough)
JASON KEARTON (Crewe Alexandra)
HARRY KEWELL (Leeds United)
GEORGE KULCSAR (Queens Park Rangers)
STEVE LAURIE (West Ham United)
STAN LAZARIDIS (Birmingham City)
VINCE MATASSA (Salisbury City)
STEVE MAUTONE (Gillingham)
SCOTT MCDONALD (Southampton)
DANNY MILOSEVIC (Leeds United)
SHAUN MURPHY (Sheffield United)
KEVIN MUSCAT (Wolverhampton Wanderers)
LUCAS NEILL (Millwall)
ANDY PETTERSON (Portsmouth)
NICK RIZZO (Crystal [illegible])
MATTHEW ROSIER (Southampton)
MARK SCHWARZER (Middlesbrough)
DANNY TIATTO (Manchester City)
JASON VAN BLERK (West Bromwich Albion)
LUKE WILKSHIRE (Middlesbrough)

SOUTH AMERICA

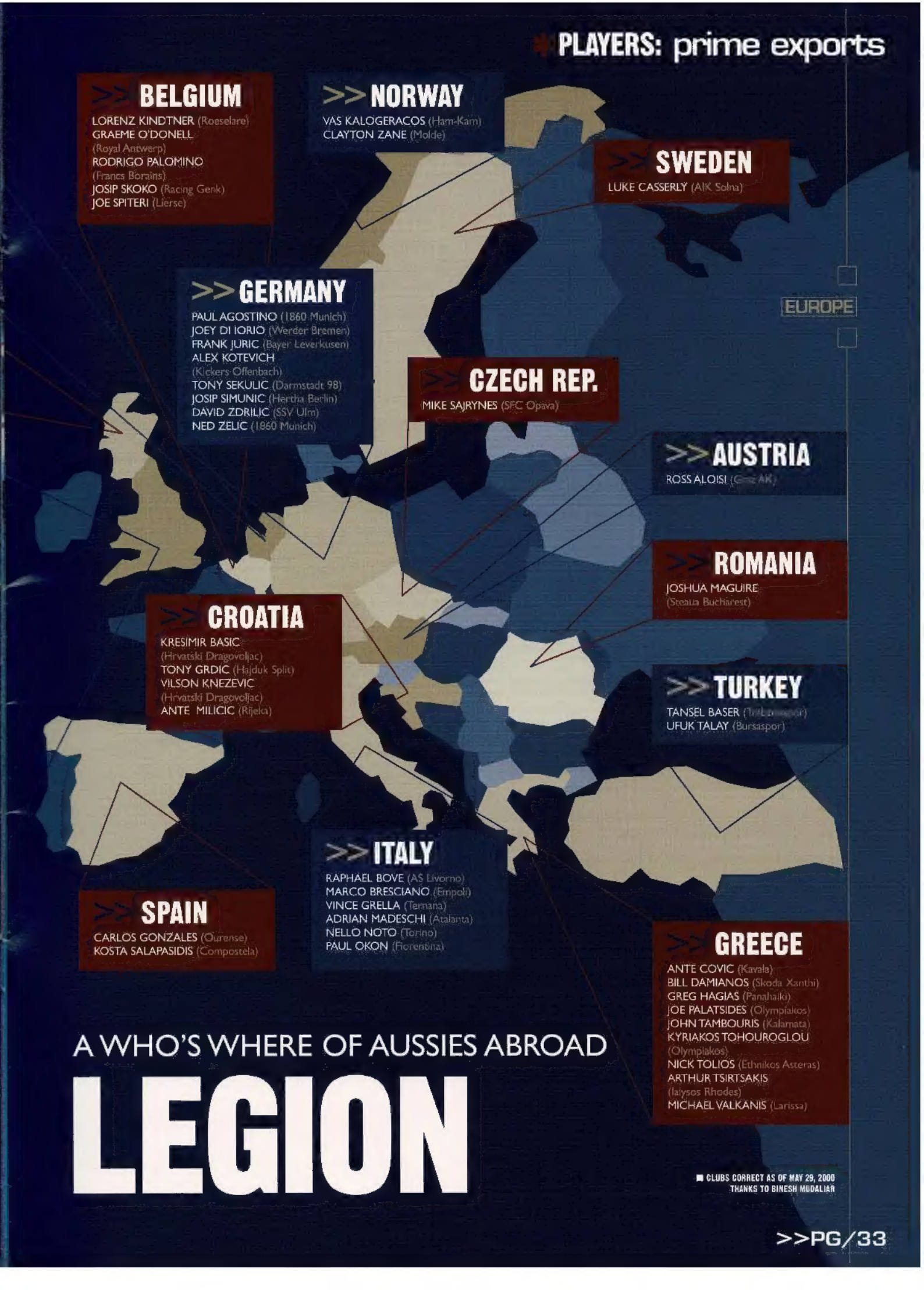
>> CHILE

MARCELO PENA (Everton)

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS PAUL AGOSTINO?

THE FOREIGN

>>PG/32



>> BELGIUM

LORENZ KINDTNER (Roeselare)
GRAEME O'DONELL (Royal Antwerp)
RODRIGO PALOMINO (Francs Borains)
JOSIP SKOKO (Racing Genk)
JOE SPITERI (Lierse)

>> NORWAY

VAS KALOGERACOS (Ham-Kam)
CLAYTON ZANE (Molde)

>> SWEDEN

LUKE CASSERLY (AIK Solna)

>> GERMANY

PAUL AGOSTINO (1860 Munich)
JOEY DI IORIO (Werder Bremen)
FRANK JURIC (Bayer Leverkusen)
ALEX KOTEVICH (Kickers Offenbach)
TONY SEKULIC (Darmstadt 98)
JOSIP SIMUNIC (Hertha Berlin)
DAVID ZDRILIC (SSV Ulm)
NED ZELIC (1860 Munich)

>> CZECH REP.

MIKE SAJRYNES (SFC Opava)

>> AUSTRIA

ROSS ALOISI (Grazer AK)

>> ROMANIA

JOSHUA MAGUIRE (Steaua Bucharest)

>> CROATIA

KRESIMIR BASIC (Hrvatski Dragovoljac)
TONY GRDIC (Hajduk Split)
VILSON KNEZEVIC (Hrvatski Dragovoljac)
ANTE MILICIC (Rijeka)

>> TURKEY

TANSEL BASER (Trabzonspor)
UFUK TALAY (Bursaspor)

>> ITALY

RAPHAEL BOVE (AS Livorno)
MARCO BRESCIANO (Empoli)
VINCE GRELLA (Ternana)
ADRIAN MADESCHI (Atalanta)
NELLO NOTO (Torino)
PAUL OKON (Fiorentina)

>> SPAIN

CARLOS GONZALES (Ourense)
KOSTA SALAPASIDIS (Compostela)

>> GREECE

ANTE COVIC (Kavala)
BILL DAMIANOS (Skoda Xanthi)
GREG HAGIAS (Panahaiki)
JOE PALATSIDES (Olympiakos)
JOHN TAMBOURIS (Kalamata)
KYRIAKOS TOHOUROGLOU (Olympiakos)
NICK TOLIOS (Ethnikos Asteras)
ARTHUR TSIRTSAKIS (Iaiysos Rhodes)
MICHAEL VALKANIS (Larissa)

A WHO'S WHERE OF AUSSIES ABROAD

LEGION

■ CLUBS CORRECT AS OF MAY 29, 2000
THANKS TO BINESH MUDALIAR

>>PG/33

All TIME AUSTRALIAN LG SOCCEROO STATS

■ COMPILED BY: ANDREW HOWE

Alex Tobin: More games than anyone, ever.

TOP ALL-TIME LG SOCCEROO APPEARANCES

1. ALEX TOBIN	1988-99	87 CAPS	2 GOALS
2. PAUL WADE	1986-96	84 CAPS	10 GOALS
3. PETER WILSON	1970-79	64 CAPS	3 GOALS
4. ATTILIO ABONYI	1967-77	60 CAPS	25 GOALS
5. JOHN KOSMINA	1976-88	60 CAPS	25 GOALS
6. MILAN IVANOVIC	1992-98	59 CAPS	0 GOALS
7. GRAHAM ARNOLD	1985-97	57 CAPS	19 GOALS
8. JIMMY ROONEY	1971-80	57 CAPS	3 GOALS
9. ALAN DAVIDSON	1980-91	50 CAPS	2 GOALS
10. MANFRED SCHAEFER	1967-74	50 CAPS	0 GOALS

TOP ALL-TIME LG SOCCEROO GOALSCORERS

1. ATTILIO ABONYI	1967-77	60	25
2. JOHN KOSMINA	1976-88	60	25
3. DAMIEN MORI	1992-99	38	22
4. GRAHAM ARNOLD	1985-97	57	19
5. RAY BAARTZ	1967-74	49	18
6. GARY COLE	1979-82	19	17
7. PETER OLLERTON	1974-77	31	15
8. AURELIO VIDMAR	1988-2000	35	13
9. DAVID MITCHELL	1981-93	29	11
10. KRIS TRAJANOVSKI	1996-98	16	10
11. PAUL TRIMBOLI	1988-98	35	10
12. FRANK FARINA	1984-95	37	10
13. PAUL WADE	1986-96	84	10

Damien Mori: 'Frogger' fires another rocket.

>> AUSTRALIA VERSUS THE SOUTH AMERICANS

ALL THE RESULTS IN FULL

Australia has never before met Paraguay at full level but has a long and colourful relationship with CONMEBOL.

>> AUSTRALIA V ARGENTINA

- JULY 14, 1988 AUSTRALIA 4 ARGENTINA 1, IN SYDNEY, BICENTENNIAL CUP
- FEBRUARY 17, 1992 ARGENTINA 2 AUSTRALIA 0, IN BUENOS AIRES, FRIENDLY
- OCTOBER 31, 1993 AUSTRALIA 1 ARGENTINA 1, IN SYDNEY, WORLD CUP QUALIFIER
- NOVEMBER 14, 1993 ARGENTINA 1 AUSTRALIA 0, IN BUENOS AIRES, WORLD CUP QUALIFIER
- JUNE 30, 1995 ARGENTINA 2 AUSTRALIA 0, IN BUENOS AIRES, FRIENDLY

>> AUSTRALIA V COLOMBIA

- FEBRUARY 8, 1995 AUSTRALIA 0 COLOMBIA 0, IN BRISBANE, FRIENDLY
- FEBRUARY 11, 1995 AUSTRALIA 0 COLOMBIA 1, IN SYDNEY, FRIENDLY

THE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A
v ARGENTINA	5	1	1	3	5	7
v BRAZIL	5	0	1	4	0	12
v CHILE	4	0	1	3	1	7
v COLOMBIA	2	0	1	1	0	1
v URUGUAY	4	2	1	1	3	3
TOTAL	20	3	5	12	9	30

>> AUSTRALIA V CHILE

- JUNE 22, 1974 AUSTRALIA 0 CHILE 0, IN BERLIN, WORLD CUP FINALS
- APRIL 24, 1996 CHILE 3 AUSTRALIA 0, IN ANTOFAGASTA, FRIENDLY
- FEBRUARY 7, 1998 AUSTRALIA 0 CHILE 1, IN MELBOURNE, FRIENDLY
- FEBRUARY 9, 2000 CHILE 2 AUSTRALIA 1, IN VALPARAISO, FRIENDLY

>> AUSTRALIA V URUGUAY

- APRIL 25, 1974 AUSTRALIA 0 URUGUAY 0, IN MELBOURNE, FRIENDLY
- APRIL 27, 1974 AUSTRALIA 2 URUGUAY 0, IN SYDNEY, FRIENDLY
- FEBRUARY 21, 1992 URUGUAY 2 AUSTRALIA 0, IN MONTEVIDEO, FRIENDLY
- DECEMBER 19, 1997 AUSTRALIA 1 URUGUAY 0, IN RIYADH, CONFEDERATIONS CUP

>> AUSTRALIA V BRAZIL

- JULY 7, 1988 BRAZIL 1 AUSTRALIA 0, IN MELBOURNE, BICENTENNIAL CUP
- JULY 17, 1988 BRAZIL 2 AUSTRALIA 0, IN SYDNEY, BICENTENNIAL CUP
- SEPTEMBER 20, 1988 BRAZIL 3 AUSTRALIA 0, IN SEOUL, OLYMPIC GAMES
- DECEMBER 14, 1997 AUSTRALIA 0 BRAZIL 0, IN RIYADH, CONFEDERATIONS CUP
- DECEMBER 21, 1997 BRAZIL 6 AUSTRALIA 0, IN RIYADH, CONFEDERATIONS CUP

EDITOR MATTHEW HALL ART DIRECTION TINA PARISI, BRITTA SMITH CONTRIBUTORS PATRICK MANGAN, PAOLO DEL ROQUE, ANDREW HOWE, PHIL HAFEY PHOTOGRAPHY ALLSPORT, SPORT THE LIBRARY PRODUCTION DEAN PORTER COLOUR SEPARATIONS ACP COLOUR GRAPHICS EDITORIAL DIRECTOR CHUCK SMEETON PUBLISHER CHRISTIAN HYLAND PUBLISHED BY ACP CUSTOMER PUBLISHING LTD, 54 PARK STREET, SYDNEY NSW 1028 TEL: (02) 9282 8000

GAMES OF THE XXVII OLYMPIAD SYDNEY 2000

LIVE ON THE SEVEN NETWORK

SEPTEMBER 15th - OCTOBER 1st 2000

adidas®